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E-543A

Dear Mr. Panetta:

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I am responding to your letter of June 21 to the President concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

As you know, making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American citizen was an important symbolic act. It let the entire world know how much we admire Raoul Wallenberg's courage, how much we are inspired by his dedication to humanity and humanitarian principles, and how much we deplore his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Union. Following the signing ceremony which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American, we called in Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin to make the Soviet Government formally and officially aware of our continued dedication to finding out the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate. To date, we have not received a response from the Soviet Government, but we shall continue in our effort to resolve the tragic mystery of Wallenberg's fate until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in this case.

We have pressed our effort both on a bilateral basis and at international forums, such as the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In this regard, on February 25 our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Mr. Michael Novak, urged the Soviet Union to make

The Honorable

Leon E. Panetta,

House of Representatives.

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"a humanitarian gesture, which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely, a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else, in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time."

We have also continued to work closely with the Government of Sweden to try to confirm reports that have come to light about Wallenberg. To date, we have been unable to confirm any of the reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive. We intend to continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man. As Ambassador Max Kampelman noted at a CSCE plenary session a year ago, the Wallenberg case is one that "will not go away;" the Soviet failure "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case" only serves to stimulate further interest. The United States Government will continue to express concern over the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity, both publicly and in our diplomatic communications with the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,

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